

**A BUMPER DIVIDEND TRANSFER AT RS 2.7 LAKH CRORES EASES FISCAL POSITION AND CAN MANAGE THE YIELD CURVE AMIDST EXOGENOUS TURBULENCE WHILE THE CR BUFFER GETS A FILLIP**

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The RBI has announced a dividend transfer of ~Rs 2.7 trillion to the Government. Simultaneously, in a prudent move, the RBI has increased the risk buffer, otherwise the dividend transfer could have topped Rs 3.5 trillion.

The RBI Board had recommended that the risk provisioning under the Contingent Risk Buffer (CRB) be maintained within a range of 7.5% to 4.5% of the RBI’s balance sheet. The transferable surplus for the year has been arrived at on the basis of the revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF) as approved by the Central Board in its meeting held on May 15, 2025. Based on the revised ECF, and taking into consideration the macroeconomic assessment, the Central Board decided to further increase the CRB to 7.5% (from 6.5% in FY24 and 6.0% in FY23).

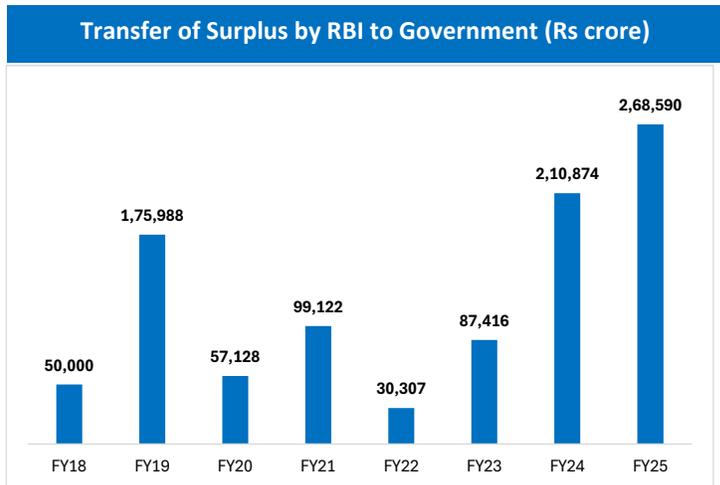
The Union Budget for 2025-26 had projected a dividend income of Rs 2.56 lakh crore cumulatively from the Reserve Bank and public sector financial institutions. With today’s transfer, this number would be now much higher than the budgeted estimates. We expect fiscal deficit to ease by ~20 bps from the budgeted level to 4.2% of GDP. Alternatively, it will open up for additional spending for around Rs 70,000 crores, other things remaining unchanged.

This surplus payout is driven by robust gross dollar sales, higher foreign exchange gains, and steady increases in interest income. Notably, the RBI was the top seller of foreign exchange reserves in January among other Asian central banks. In September 2024, foreign exchange reserves peaked to \$704 billion and the RBI has sold truck loads of dollar to stabilize the currency..

The dynamics of surplus for RBI was decided by its LAF operations and interest income from its holding of domestic and foreign securities. The balances under the daily LAF show that RBI was in absorption mode from 03 June to 13 Dec’2024. However, after mid December the system liquidity turned to injection mode till end March 2025. The average absorptions add to RBI expenses under LAF.

**RBI’S DIVIDEND TO GOVERNMENT**

- ◆ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a record (highest ever) dividend of Rs 2.69 lakh crore to the Government of India for the financial year 2024-25 as against Rs 2.11 lakh crore transferred for FY24, an increase of 27.4%.
- ◆ The Board had recommended that the risk provisioning under the Contingent Risk Buffer (CRB) be maintained within a range of 7.5% to 4.5% of the RBI’s balance sheet.
- ◆ The transferable surplus for the year has been arrived at on the basis of the revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF) as approved by the Central Board in its meeting held on May 15, 2025.
- ◆ Based on the revised ECF, and taking into consideration the macroeconomic assessment, the Central Board decided to further increase the CRB to 7.5% (from 6.5% in FY24 and 6.0% in FY23).



Source: RBI, SBI Research

- ◆ The Union Budget for 2025-26 has projected a dividend income of Rs 2.56 lakh crore from the Reserve Bank and public sector financial institutions. With today's transfer, this number would be much higher than the budgeted. We expect fiscal deficit to ease by 20 to 30 bps from the budgeted level to 4.2% of GDP. Alternatively it will open up for additional spending.
- ◆ Gross dollar sales rose to \$371.6 billion in FY25 (till Feb25) against \$153 billion in FY24. Meanwhile, decline in G-sec yields has had a bearing on MTM gains on RBI's holdings of rupee securities. In FY25, RBI's holdings of rupee securities increased by Rs 1.95 lakh crore, to Rs 15.6 lakh crore as of March 2025.
- ◆ This surplus payout is driven by robust gross dollar sales, higher foreign exchange gains, and steady increases in interest income. Notably, the RBI was the top seller of foreign exchange reserves in January among other Asian central banks. In September 2024, foreign exchange reserves peaked to \$704 billion and the RBI has sold truck loads of dollar to stabilize the currency.

#### IMPACT ON RBI'S BALANCE SHEET

- ◆ The dynamics of surplus for RBI was decided by its LAF operations and interest income from its holding of domestic and foreign securities. The balances under the daily LAF show that RBI was in absorption mode from 03 June to 13 Dec'2024. However, after mid December the system liquidity turned to injection mode till end March 2025. The average absorptions add to RBI expenses under LAF.
- ◆ System liquidity turned to surplus mode and stands at Rs 1.2 lakh crore on 31 Mar'25. Average liquidity deficit from 16th Dec 24 to 28 Mar'25 was Rs 1.7 lakh crore
- ◆ Durable liquidity is likely to remain surplus in FY26, supported by several factors, like OMO purchase, RBI's dividend transfer, BOP surplus of around USD 25-30 bn in FY26.

Liquidity Estimate (Rs billion)	
Items	Rs bn
Core liquidity surplus as on 31.03.2025	1112
1. Currency in circulation withdrawal	-1000
2. RBI dividend	2685
3. Forex sale by RBI	-100
4. VRR auctions long term	250
5. Open Market Operations by RBI	2250
6. Required CRR at 4% (drawdown)	-250
<b>Core liquidity as on end May 25(Approx)</b>	<b>4,947</b>
<i>Memo items:</i>	
System liquidity [Net Absorption (+) / Injection (-)] as at end-period (Approx)	1,762
Source: SBI Research	

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